

49. (twice amended) The interface of claim 33 wherein the encapsulant and support material together encapsulate more of the individual lengths of the plurality of fibers than just one end.

56. (new) A thermal interface comprising:

a plurality of thermally conductive fibers embedded in a support material, the support material having a first surface and a second opposing surface and the fibers having first portions that extend upwardly out of the second opposing surface of the support material;

an encapsulant between the first portions of the fibers and over the support material, the support material, encapsulant, and fibers forming a thermally conductive composite; and

a third surface defining an outermost surface of the thermally conductive composite except for the fiber first portions terminating in tips that are elevationally above the third surface and the encapsulant, the first surface opposing the third surface and defining another outermost surface of the thermally conductive composite except for fiber tips that terminate elevationally below the support material, an average length of the fibers being greater than an average thickness from the first surface to the third surface along an average direction of the fiber lengths.

57. (new) A method of making a thermal interface comprising:

embedding a plurality of thermally conductive fibers in a support material, the support material having a first surface and a second opposing surface and the fibers having first portions that extend upwardly out of the second opposing surface of the support material;

applying an encapsulant between the first portions of the fibers and over the support material, the support material, encapsulant, and fibers forming a thermally conductive composite;

forming a third surface defining an outermost surface of the thermally conductive composite except for the fiber first portions terminating in tips that are elevationally above the third surface and the encapsulant, the first surface opposing the third surface and defining another outermost surface of the thermally conductive composite except for fiber tips that terminate elevationally below the support material, an average length of the fibers being greater than an average thickness from the first surface to the third surface along an average direction of the fiber lengths.

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